



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
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Emergency Authorization Sought to Repair Inflatable Dam

Agency Continues to Meet Water Demand; Reviews Leak Repair Work, Costs

Santa Rosa, CA – The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) board of directors on Tuesday, June 27, will consider approval of a resolution declaring an emergency need to repair the Agency's inflatable dam. If approved, the resolution would provide the Agency general manager/chief engineer authority to enter into contracts and take actions as necessary to repair the dam.

The resolution would also direct the Agency to file a Notice of Exemption for emergency repair of the inflatable dam. The emergency repair project is exempt from the California Environment Quality Act because the repair project is an emergency and necessary to maintain service essential to public health and safety. The total cost of the repair work is not yet known but is estimated to be under \$500,000. Funds are available within the Agency's Water Transmission Operations and Maintenance Fund to pay for the repair work.

On June 21, the dam manufacturer, Bridgestone Corporation, inspected the condition of the dam and found it to be stable. Bridgestone recommended a sequence of activities for inspection and repair work. The Agency is currently working with Bridgestone and evaluating the recommendations to determine the most appropriate level of action.

On June 20, the Agency contacted its water retail providers and encouraged them to continue implementation of water conservation measures and be prepared to operate local water supply sources as it investigates damage to its inflatable dam. The Agency also notified several regulatory agencies about the leak. The inflatable dam is made of a synthetic rubber material and is attached to a concrete foundation in the bed of the Russian River, adjacent to three water supply collector wells. The inflatable dam is used to divert water into infiltration ponds increasing production from Agency wells. In order for the dam to effectively divert water, the top of the dam should be held at an elevation of 36 feet. The leak currently limits the height of the dam to 34 feet. Despite the leak, the Agency is meeting current water demand and is monitoring the dam around the clock.

Location: Sonoma County Administration Building, 575 Administration Dr., Room 102A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Time: 8:30 a.m.

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Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for Sonoma and Northern Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.